



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5651

LCO No. 1811

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

***An Act Concerning The Department Of Mental Retardation
Waiting List.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall
2 ensure that all programs and services administered or provided by the
3 Department of Mental Retardation, including, but not limited to, case
4 management and technical assistance, furnish supports to clients based
5 on the principles of self-determination and follow a person-centered
6 planning process.

7 (b) In carrying out the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
8 the commissioner shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an ongoing
9 assessment of services required by individuals both on, and not yet on,
10 the waiting list. Any proposal or plan with respect to such assessment
11 of services and meeting the needs of such individuals shall be
12 formulated by the commissioner in accordance with the principles set
13 forth in subsection (a) of this section.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) The Commissioner of Mental Retardation shall
15 provide, in each mental health region, the following services: (1) A

16 minimum of four recreational therapists to provide recreational
17 services to clients; (2) specialized services, including medical, dental,
18 physical therapy and other forms of special therapy, to be furnished by
19 clinics established by the commissioner in each region; and (3) a
20 minimum of two outreach workers to contact the minority population
21 within the region.

22 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 17a-218 of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

24 (d) The commissioner may provide, within available appropriations,
25 respite care services which may be administered directly by the
26 department, or through contracts for services with providers of such
27 services, or by means of direct subsidy to parents of mentally retarded
28 persons to enable them to purchase such services. Any respite care
29 services provided under this subsection shall be furnished on a seven
30 day per week basis to provide clients with a maximum of fifteen days
31 of respite care per calendar year.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide better services for state residents with mental retardation.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]